

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 813

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate The Exotics upon the celebration of their fiftieth anniversary as a musical group.

WHEREAS, for fifty years, The Exotics have entertained thousands with the music of their generation, an accolade that speaks volumes about their longevity and their contribution to the Franklin, Nashville, and Middle Tennessee music scene; and

WHEREAS, The Exotics was one of the first 60s, 70s, and "soul" music groups in Franklin and Nashville, playing on tennis courts, patios, and driveways, and inside gymnasiums, country clubs, the Willow Plunge in Franklin, and at events all across the country; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, countless garage bands were formed in the United States, as teenagers with a talent for music and a desire for entertainment turned their parents' garages into practice areas and center stages; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1964 in a garage on Franklin Road, one such band emerged out of this era; founded by Billy Adair and Glenn Crowell, "The Exotics" was a group of sixteen and seventeen-year-old young men with Billy Adair as the lead guitarist, Glenn Crowell as the lead singer and bass guitarist, Jeff Cook as the saxophonist, keyboardist, and vocalist, and Loy Hardcastle as the drummer and vocalist; and

WHEREAS, after their first few weeks of band sessions, the group knew they had a special chemistry; their combined contributions and vocal range were perfect for the music of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1960s, The Exotics added band members Robert Early and Steve Smartt as the horn section of the group, giving depth and volume to the music; and

WHEREAS, in the band's early years, they played at high school dances, outdoor driveway combos, pool parties, and college fraternity and sorority events, and throughout the years, they have played hundreds of gigs and logged thousands of miles in their green Dodge van while entertaining across the Southeast; and

WHEREAS, The Exotics spotlighted as the house band for the Safari Beach Hotel in Daytona Beach, Florida, for a few summers in the 1960s and played half-time shows at Neyland Stadium and the Sugar Bowl; and

WHEREAS, over the years band members would enter and exit, but the core band members, Billy, Glenn, Jeff, Loy, Robert, and Steve, remained the centerpiece of the band; in addition to their musical endeavors, the musicians maintained professional careers and raised families, making music their hobby; and

WHEREAS, a Franklin native, Billy Adair was a broadcast music producer, winning more than 150 awards for composing and arranging advertisements, and served as Department Chair of jazz and folk music at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music, leading the Blair Big Band and directing The Establishment, a not-for-profit big band; he was married to Beegie Adair, an acclaimed jazz pianist; and

WHEREAS, Glenn Crowell of Franklin is a Vietnam Veteran, serving from 1968 to 1970; upon returning home, he taught guitar at Cotten Music in Nashville before beginning his career with the United States Postal Service, a position he retired from in 2002; he and his wife, Mary, have four children and three grandchildren, with another grandchild on the way; and

WHEREAS, Loy Hardcastle grew up in Franklin and worked in the automobile industry before beginning his current career as a realtor; he and his wife, Cathy, enjoy the love of their eleven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, a Columbia native, Jeffrey L. Cook currently serves as the Senior Account Manager for Cumulus Broadcasting Radio Group, and he has three loving children; and

WHEREAS, Steven Smartt currently serves as the Associate Dean for Academic Services and Assistant Provost for Research at Vanderbilt University in his hometown of Nashville; he shares his success and love with his wife, Kim, and their two children; and

WHEREAS, Robert Early grew up in Nashville and played with the Boulevard Brass Quintet for twenty-five years; he is a Presbyterian minister and has served as the Associate Executive Vice Chancellor and Counselor to the Chancellor at Vanderbilt University; he enjoys the companionship of his wife, Kim, and the couple's two wonderful children; and

WHEREAS, fifty years later, the band still plays at Mercy Lounge, high school reunions, and other special events; and

WHEREAS, many Franklin, Nashville, and Middle Tennessee natives who came of age in the 1960s recall vivid memories of The Exotics, as the band created an endearing legacy in the hearts of those who love their music; they have hundreds of fans that have a sincere gratitude and appreciation for the band's commitment to creating a mosaic of music and memories; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2014, the band lost their co-founder and leader, Billy Adair to cancer; Billy will forever be the leader of The Exotics and will always be missed by his true "band of brothers," always present in their music and The Exotics experience; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to acknowledge the five decades of entertainment and memories that The Exotics delivered through their music; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate The Exotics upon the celebration of their fiftieth anniversary as a musical group and wish them continued success with every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.